

We claim:

1. A method for managing the storage of attachments for electronic mail messages comprising the steps of;

receiving an electronic mail message at a destination location;

5 determining the origin of an attachment to the electronic message;

deleting an attachment that originated at the destination location of the electronic message; and

creating a link to the original document located at the destination location of the electronic message.

10

2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the destination location of the electronic message is the location of the sender of the electronic message.

15

3. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising before said origin determination step the step of determining whether the received electronic message has an attachment.

4. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising after said attachment deleting step, the step of saving the electronic message.

20

5. The method as described in claim 1 wherein said attachment origin determination step further comprises determining whether the attachment was created at the location of the sender of the electronic message.

25

6. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising before said link creation step, the step of updating the received message to reflect the deleted attachment.

7. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising before said attachment origin determination step, the step of determining whether the recipient of an electronic message desires to save the electronic message.

30

8. A method for managing the storage of attachments for electronic mail messages comprising the steps of;

receiving an electronic mail message at a destination location;

determining the origin of an attachment to the electronic message;

5 determining whether the electronic mail recipient desires to modify an attachment that originated at the destination location of the electronic message; and

creating a link to the original document located at the destination location of the electronic message.

10 9. The method as described in claim 8 further comprising after said modification determination step, the step of modifying the attachment.

10. The method as described in claim 8 further comprising before said origin determination step the step of determining whether the received electronic message has
15 an attachment.

11. The method as described in claim 9 further comprising after said modification determination step, the step of deleting the attachment when there is a determination that the recipient does not want to modify the attachment.

20

12. The method as described in claim 8 wherein said attachment origin determination step further comprises determining whether the attachment was created at the location of the sender of the electronic message.

25 13. The method as described in claim 8 further comprising before said link creation step, the step of updating the received message to reflect the modified attachment.

14. The method as described in claim 8 further comprising before said attachment origin determination step, the step of determining whether the recipient of an electronic
30 message desires to save the electronic message.

15. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for notifying a recipient of an electronic message of message reply requirements comprising:

instructions for receiving an electronic mail message at a destination location;

instructions for determining the origin of an attachment to the electronic message;

5 instructions for deleting an attachment that originated at the destination location of the electronic message; and

instructions for creating a link to the original document located at the destination location of the electronic message.

10 16. The computer program product as described in claim 15 further comprising before said origin determination instructions, instructions for determining whether the received electronic message has an attachment.

15 17. The computer program product as described in claim 15 further comprising after said attachment deleting instructions, instructions for saving the electronic message.

18. The computer program product as described in claim 15 wherein said attachment origin determination instructions further comprise instructions for determining whether the attachment was created at the location of the sender of the electronic message.

20

19. The computer program product as described in claim 15 further comprising before said link creation instructions, instructions for updating the received message to reflect the deleted attachment.

25 20. The computer program product as described in claim 15 further comprising before said attachment origin determination instructions, instructions for determining whether the recipient of an electronic message desires to save the electronic message.

21. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for notifying a recipient of an electronic message of message reply requirements comprising:

instructions for receiving an electronic mail message at a destination location;

instructions for determining the origin of an attachment to the electronic message;

5 instructions for determining whether the electronic mail recipient desires to modify an attachment that originated at the destination location of the electronic message; and

instructions for creating a link to the original document located at the destination location of the electronic message.

10

22. The computer program product as described in claim 21 further comprising after said modification determination instructions, instructions for modifying the attachment.

23. The computer program product as described in claim 21 further comprising before
15 said origin determination instructions, instructions for determining whether the received electronic message has an attachment.

24. The computer program product as described in claim 22 further comprising after
20 said modification determination instructions, instructions for deleting the attachment when there is a determination that the recipient does not want to modify the attachment.

25. The computer program product as described in claim 21 wherein said attachment
origin determination instructions further comprise instructions for determining whether
the attachment was created at the location of the sender of the electronic message.

25

27. The computer program product as described in claim 21 further comprising before
said link creation instructions, instructions for updating the received message to reflect
the modified attachment.

28. The computer program product as described in claim 21 further comprising before said attachment origin determination instructions, instructions for determining whether the recipient of an electronic message desires to save the electronic message.